

sequence, the junction amino acid sequence, -SF- is encoded by nucleotide positions 2704-2709. Figures 3, 4 and 7 have been amended to delete unnecessary headings in order to simplify reading of the Figures. None of these amendments constitute new matter.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 66-79. These Claims have been cancelled solely in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application. Indeed, Applicants have cancelled these Claims without prejudice, without intent to abandon any originally claimed subject matter, and without the intent to acquiesce to any rejection of record. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the Claims (or similar Claims) in subsequently filed application(s).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted on October 17, 2000. In response to the October 24, 2000 telephone conference between Applicants' attorney and the Examiner, Applicants hereby submit a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132, by Dr. Linda Couto (attached hereto at Tab D), in the parent case (U.S. Patent Appln. Ser. No. 09/364,862), showing that *in vivo* mouse data disclosed in the working examples correlates with the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' pending Claims 41-65 should be passed to allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call Christina Thomson (Reg. No. 43,190) at (510) 748-7208.

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